

HUMAN SERVICES



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS - North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

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Overview: The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) is responsible for managing regional human service programs as well as working to provide access to human services for the unincorporated areas. DCHS is the second largest human service agency in Washington, with a 2005 budget of \$235 million from multiple funding sources (county, state, federal, grants, other).

Regional responsibilities (available to all eligible county residents)

Developmental Disabilities

- Regional coordinator for developmental disabilities services.
- 2004 Budget: \$17,595,219. Primarily state funded.
- Provides early intervention services for children aged birth-three with developmental delays, and supported employment programs to help adults with developmental disabilities pursue and maintain jobs.
- National leader in supported employment opportunities: National average monthly wage: \$241. King County average monthly wage: \$1,022. DDD has built a network of over 500 supported employment employers/businesses.

Mental Health

- Regional coordinator of the public mental health system.
- 2004 budget: \$94,700,094. Primarily state funded.
- Mental health services are provided through a network of community agencies under contract to King County. Most accessed local agencies: Highline West Seattle Mental Health, Evergreen Healthcare and Puget Sound Educational Service District.
- As a result of state budget cuts, the public mental health system is increasingly a Medicaid-only service. Eligibility is restricted and access to care is limited for people not enrolled in Medicaid. All must meet medical necessity criteria to be eligible for care.
- Services include: inpatient and outpatient treatment services, case management, individual/group/family therapy, medication management, crisis services, employment/vocational services, housing.
- 24/7 telephone crisis response services available through the Crisis Clinic 1-866-4CRISIS.
- 24/7 involuntary commitment investigation and detention services are available through County Designated Mental Health Professionals (county staff).

HUMAN SERVICES

Chemical Dependency

- Regional coordinator of the publicly funded substance abuse services system.
- 2004 Budget: \$18,379,361. Primarily state funded.

Chemical Dependency, cont.

- 24/7 crisis and referral services available through the Alcohol and Drug Helpline 1-800 562-1240
- Eligibility screening is available at multiple sites around King County including the King County Assessment Center in SeaTac, both King County jails, and local Community Service Offices.
- Investigation and detention for involuntary commitment under chemical dependency statutes.
- Services include: inpatient and outpatient treatment, sobering services, detoxification, opiate substitution, housing and vocational assistance.
- Provider agencies are located throughout King County. Most accessed agencies by local residents include: King County Assessment Center, Recovery Centers of King County, Valley Medical Center, Kent Youth and Family Services, Renton Area Youth and Family Services, Ruth Dykeman, and Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation.

Veteran's Program

- Assists indigent or low-income veterans and their families with financial aid, housing, employment, counseling and other supports.
- 2004 Budget: \$2,089,737. Funded by King County property taxes.
- Works closely with veteran service organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and others to reach and serve vets in need. King County provides leadership to statewide planning efforts through the County Veterans Coalition.
- Veterans Incarcerated Program works to engage vets in our jails and connect them to treatment, housing, and other supports to stop the cycle through jail.

Public Defense

- Low-income people charged with a jailable offense have the right to legal services, regardless of the ability to pay. Access to services is coordinated by the Office of the Public Defender.
- OPD provides legal defense for juvenile cases, contempt of court, involuntary commitment, and felonies countywide, and misdemeanor cases in the unincorporated county areas only. Misdemeanor cases will move to the city that annexes an unincorporated area.
- Screening services are available at Southwest District Court in Burien or at 10 other sites.

Women's Program

- Coordinates regional emergency supports and assistance to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Services include sexual assault and domestic violence hotlines, emergency shelter assistance, legal aid, and other supports. Agencies funded include the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center; YWCA of Seattle, King and Snohomish Counties (Renton); and Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN) in Tukwila. For personal safety reasons, survivors often chose to receive services away from their current/most recent address.

Community Organizing Program

- Provides technical assistance and mini-grants to assist neighborhood building, substance abuse and violence prevention. All communities may apply, but fewer grants are awarded to Seattle.

HUMAN SERVICES

- Examples of grants include: \$600 for after school activities through Highline High School awarded to Burien Parks & Recreation; \$5000 for a Community Safety Fair awarded to Tukwila Parks & Recreation; \$500 for downtown litter & graffiti clean-up awarded to the White Center Community Development Association; a technical assistance grant to the Boulevard Park Action Coordinating Team; and others.

Work Training Programs

- Helps adults and youth gain education and vocational skills to adjust to a changing economy and changing workforce needs, and build better futures.
- **Youth services** – Provides programs for at-risk youth including Stay in School programs, New Start, out of school programs, and Youth Opportunity. Services include case management, education (GED, high school credit retrieval, re-entry to mainstream high school), work training, career counseling, job placement, and links to community services like mental health/substance abuse counseling.
- **Adults/Dislocated Workers** – Provides assistance to people who have lost jobs due to plant closures or downsizing. Services include assessment, career counseling, training, job placement, job retention and other supports. WorkSource Renton provides many services to local residents.

Youth & Family Services

- Youth and Family Services agencies provide services within the boundaries of the 19 school districts of King County. DCHS is a funding partner and helps fund programs targeted at youth involved in, or at high risk for involvement in, the juvenile justice system.
- Services include outreach, youth and family counseling, case management, gang intervention, drug prevention, parenting classes, drug/alcohol treatment and support groups, employment and education programs, tutoring, youth development, family support and others.
- Agencies funded in the North Highline area include the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center (Highline School District); Ruth Dykeman Children's Center (Family Functional Therapy); Renton Area Youth and Family Services (Tukwila School District); New Futures; and the Southwest Boys and Girls Club.

Housing and Community Development

While some housing programs will be impacted by annexation to Seattle or Burien, these services remain available, regardless of annexation:

- **Surplus Property Program**: Suitable county surplus properties are made available to affordable housing developers at a reasonable price. As county needs change over the years, new properties are identified and they may be in any jurisdiction.
- **Anti-Predatory Lending**: We work on a regional basis with local governments and community agencies to educate homeowners about how to avoid predatory lending and provide a response network of agencies to assist homeowners who are victims of predatory lending. This regional assistance is available to residents of Seattle, Burien, and unincorporated King County as all are partners in this effort.

HUMAN SERVICES

Local services to be impacted/reduced by annexation

Unincorporated Area Councils (UACs)

- King County Citizen Participation Initiative (CPI) established a process for recognizing UACs and created Community Service Representatives to serve as a liaison between the UAC and county government. Bong StoDomingo of DCHS serves this community. County funds have also been provided (\$10,000/year) to support UAC activities. Both would be discontinued.

Aging Services

- King County's Aging Funding Policy identifies residents of the county's unincorporated areas as the priority population for funding allocations for senior services. A requirement for most aging contracts is that 20% of people served or 100 unduplicated clients served per quarter are to come from unincorporated King County. With annexation, it is likely that there would be reductions to King County's funding allocation for area senior services and adult day services.

Housing and Community Development

Works with many partners to develop low-median income housing/community improvement projects, and provides homeless assistance programs. Availability for some county housing programs will be affected by annexation to either Burien or Seattle as noted below.

Annexation to Burien: Many housing services currently available to North Highline would continue to be available, whether they remain an unincorporated area or annex to Burien. This is because Burien and most other suburban cities participate with King County in a housing and community development "consortium" where all consortium members receive the same services. Seattle is not part of this consortium; it has its own federal funds as well as funding from a housing levy.

- Housing Repair Assistance: We provide zero-interest deferred payment loans and emergency grants to low- and moderate-income homeowners. In the past 5 years, we have helped 60 homeowners in the White Center/Boulevard Park area, investing over \$600,000. This program is not expected to change with annexation to Burien but, as Seattle is not part of our Consortium, we do not serve Seattle residents.
- Homelessness Prevention: Our Consortium has an eviction prevention program that provides small emergency loans aimed at keeping people in their homes and avoiding homelessness.
- Assistance Financing Affordable Housing Development: Federal HOME and CDBG funds, along with a state-authorized funding stream from a document recording fee surcharge and some local county dollars, help to finance affordable housing development projects. In addition, our credit enhancement program helps reduce project financing costs for qualified developers. Last year, our Housing Finance Program allocated about \$12 million to projects around the county, and we expect to fund a similar amount again this fall. We helped finance 10 projects in the White Center/Boulevard Park area, investing around \$4 million. Affordable housing developers in North Highline would continue to be able to apply for these funds with annexation to Burien, because of our Consortium arrangement.
- Housing Development Technical Assistance: We provide assistance to non-profits who wish to develop affordable housing.

HUMAN SERVICES

- Affordable Housing Planning Assistance: Another Consortium service is housing planning assistance designed to increase the number of units of affordable housing produced by private for-profit developers, including a wide variety of housing types, and help in reducing regulatory barriers to the creation of affordable housing. Our assistance is designed to help increase the range of housing choices available.

Available only to unincorporated area residents: Some affordable housing incentive programs are provided by the county *only* to unincorporated areas, as they relate to local land use or development regulations. These include:

- King County Density Bonus Program for Affordable Housing: If developers agree to build a certain portion of their units as affordable, they are allowed a higher density than what would otherwise be allowed.
- School and Road Impact Fee Waivers: The impact fees that normally apply to units being developed in unincorporated King County can be waived for affordable units.

Other issues of interest to the North Highline community:

- Home ownership counseling is a regional service offered by the Washington Home Ownership Center (WHOC) and available to all county residents. For low interest loans, our King County Consortium's First Homes program offers low interest down payment assistance loans to buyers buying into several south county communities, including White Center. The Consortium's money would still be available to buyers buying into the area with annexation to Burien but not if they annexed to Seattle.
- Weatherization is done by the KC Housing Authority, and the county housing repair program coordinates closely with them. It would continue to be available with annexation to Burien but not if they annex to Seattle, although Seattle has a similar program. NOTE: Seattle City Light also has some weatherization \$\$ available, based on whether or not they are in the area served by Seattle City Light. Some areas of White Center are served by Seattle City Light.
- Utility bills: Very low-income people receive assistance through the federal LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) program administered by several agencies under a contract with the state. The Multi-Service Center does it for all of south King County, including both Burien and White Center. CAMP does it for Seattle. A state funding formula allocates the funds to these agencies.